capped for want of funds and accommodation. Their cry for help falls deaf on the ears of the Government, if it has any ears to hear. It will be a national calamity, if the Government will allow these systems to die on account of starvation.

Sanitation and Conservancy.

The next item that I wish to touch upon is *Sanitation and Conservancy*.

This, in rural areas, will take care of itself, without much effort on the part of the Government. In towns, and especially where there are Municipalities, the burden is thrown upon them. These bodies are not at present allowed to function properly. The Government is not prepared to contribute anything to their funds. Still, the Government will not allow them to utilise these funds at their disposal in the manner they think best. There is a tight hold placed on them by the Government. The growth of these institutions as self-governing bodies is prevented. These bodies, I know, have not sufficient funds at their disposal to discharge the important functions entrusted to them, the most important of them being maintenance of roads and construction of roads. The Government thinks that these bodies should tax the people, and thus meet their requirements. This policy is erroneous. The Government must give them substantial help by way of contributions or even long—term loans carrying low rate of interest. The Government should only exercise the power of mere supervision. Take for instance the condition of Ernakulam roads and drainage. The state of affairs is far from satisfactory. When the roads were handed over to the Municipality, the Government had promised to give a substantial amount for their maintenance every year. For a few years, the promise was kept up. But, gradually, this policy underwent a change, until at last the Municipality is now told that they should not expect any help from the Government. This is cruel.

Public Works.

It is high time, Sir, that the Department sees that more money is spent for communications, original and maintenance, than for buildings generally. There are many places in the State, where means of communications are urgently needed. In many of the small islands, such as Panambukad, Mulavukad, Kothad, etc., there are no roads at all. The inhabitants of those places derive no benefit worth the name for the cess they pay. We want bridges very badly in many places. Government have to think of that.

Again for some years to come, the Public Works Department will devote its attention to the irrigation problem of the whole State. Much has to be done in this direction. We

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

want a systematic scheme of irrigation works to be worked and carried out in the course of the next ten or twelve years. It is high time that the Department should not invest any large amounts in cement and concrete for buildings, either for schools or for hospitals, etc., at Ernakulam.

Industries.

Sir, I conclude with a few words as regards the present policy of the Government as regards *Industrial Improvement*. There is no policy of construction adopted by the Government in this line. It is one of destruction. What has become of the Tanneries? And what is the fate of the Potteries? Why are they not allowed to work properly? Why can't the Government get expert opinion in the matter of successfully working these and other similar undertakings? The Government cannot afford to shirk responsibility in this respect. The future prosperity of the State must depend on the development of industrial resources of the State. Hydro-Electric schemes, that have been thought out before, have to be worked out. The Government should take a bold step in these directions, if it cares for the material prosperity of its subjects. The present Government does not seem to be bold enough to take a venture in this respect. This policy of inactivity has certainly to be changed.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—I have to thank the Finance Member and through him the Government for presenting to us a surplus budget.

Sir, whatever the Political Economists may say to the contrary, the sight of a surplus budget is refreshing to one's mind, regardless of the fact that it is built on unstable ground. We cannot depend upon this interest, for ere long, the capital will have to be utilised. We cannot have the income from Land-Revenue—Capital also for long. Therefore, to keep on our budget a surplus one, we will have to look for fresh fields and pastures new. The lands are heavily assessed. The incidence of taxation here per head is heavier than in those of our Sister States. The lands cannot be burdened with another tax. The prohibition question is an international one. It is destined to prevail at one time or other. The income from that source is also destined to dwindle, if not to nothing, to a paltry sum. We are not budgetting for productive industries. We are not entering on irrigation projects, which would be sure sources of income. Hence, I repeat this year also that we are on unstable ground. The only new imposition possible is the income-tax-a percentage of the profits from non-agricultural incomes. This has been demanded for the last two years. It was to find ways and means to make both ends meet with the sure sources of income we have that the Finance Committee was appointed as a result of the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly